

# Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lectures

1973-2025

The lecture was established in 1971 as a memorial to Elizabeth Casson (1881–1954) in honour of her contributions to the profession of occupational therapy. The first woman to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Bristol in 1929, Elizabeth Casson specialised in psychiatry and introduced occupational therapy to England, setting up the first school of occupational therapy, Dorset House, in Bristol.

We award the lectureship to an RCOT member whose peers consider them to have made and be making a significant contribution to the profession's development.

## Lecturers

Year	Lecturer	Lecture title
2025	Dr Charlie Chung	Basic Etiquette – do you open doors for others?
2024	Professor Katrina Bannigan	The time is now
2023	Keir Harding	Nothing grows in toxic environments
2022	Dr Sidney Chu	Optimising performance, clinical and economic outcomes in occupational therapy service delivery
2021	Dr Anita Atwal	No barriers to brilliance: Social and creative courage to innovate and disrupt occupational therapy practice
2020	Dr Jenny Preston MBE	Re-engineering truth and certainty in occupational therapy
2019	Dr Sarah Kantartzis	Shifting our focus. fostering the potential of occupation and occupational therapy in a complex world
2018	Dr Nick Pollard	Occupational stories from a global city
2017	Professor Diane Cox	Life as an occupational being
2016	Dr Wendy Bryant	Occupational alienation: a concept for modelling participation in practice and research
2015	Thérèse Jackson	Pushing the boundaries and leading the way
2014	Professor Alison Hammond	Changing ways: changing times
2013	Elaine P Hunter	Transformational leadership in occupational therapy – delivering change through conversations
2012	Dr Claire Ballinger	The effectiveness, impact and legacy of occupational therapy

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2011	Professor Ann Turner	Occupational therapy – a profession in adolescence?
2010	Dr Avril Drummond	Jack of all trades and master of none; the future of occupational therapy?
2009	Anne Lawson-Porter	Rethink, reimagine and refocus
2008	Inga Warren	Right from the start
2007	Dr M Clare Taylor	Diversity amongst occupational therapists – rhetoric or reality?
2006	Graeme Smith	Telling tales – how stories and narratives co-create change
2005	Dr Gail Mountain	Challenge - to confront, defy, face up to; a difficulty that stimulates interest or effort
2004	Dr Jenny Butler	The fascination of the difficult
2003	Dr Marion Walker	Past conditional, present indicative, future indefinite
2002	Moya Willson	A culture to care for
2001	Gwilym Roberts	A new synthesis – the emergent spirit of higher-level practice
2000	Dr Christine Mayers	'Reflect on the past to shape the future'
1999	Barbara Tyldesley	Alice Constance Owens -- reflections upon a remarkable lady and a pioneer of occupational therapy in England
1998	Sheelagh Richards	Occupation for health - and wealth?
1997	Professor Pamela Eakin	Shifting the balance towards evidence-based practice
1996	J Elizabeth Yates	Equalising opportunities
1995	Rosemary Hagedorn	An emergent profession - a personal perspective
1994	(WFOT Congress)	<i>(No lecture given)</i>
1993	Stephanie Correia	Traditions and transitions - issues for the future
1992	Averil Stewart	Always a little further
1991	Rosemary Barnitt	Through a glass, darkly
1990	Naomi Fraser-Holland	Moving targets and 20:20 vision
1989	Hester Monteath	<i>(Ill, did not finish writing the lecture)</i>
1988	Elizabeth Grove	Working together
1987	Margaret Ellis	Quality: who cares?
1986	J H Walker	OuT into the community

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1985	Professor D L McLellan	Training for a rehabilitation team
1984	Professor Heinz Wolff	<i>(not published; no title found)</i>
1983	Joan Bicknell	Mentally handicapped people: their rights and responsibilities
1982	Judith Farrell	Two imperatives for occupational therapy – occupation and research
1981	Elizabeth Fanshawe	The importance of rehabilitation to disabled people
1980	Leigh Atkinson	Unique to occupational therapy
1979	Professor Verna Wright	Patients matter
1978	Alicia Mendez	Processes of change: some speculations for the future
1977	Councillor Geoffrey M Shaw	Not known <i>(not published)</i>
1976	Cairns Aitken	Rehabilitation: facts and fantasies about occupational therapy
1975	Hugh Glanville	From pioneer occupational therapy school to chair of rehabilitation: a review of progress
1974	Hugh Casson	Envirotexture <i>(no report published)</i>
1973	George Godber	Inaugural lecture: interpersonal relationships in the health service